FESSENDEN'S

SILK MANUAL

AND

PRACTICAL FARMER.

Devoted to the Culture of Silk, Agriculture, and Rural Economy.

VOL. 1. BOSTON, APRIL, 1836. NO. 12.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

GEORGE C. BARRETT,

51 & 52 North Market St., at the N. E. Farmer Office.

T. G. FESSENDEN, EDITOR.

Fifty cents per year—twelve copies for five dollars —always in advance.

☞ Postmasters and Agents allowed 10 per cent on all subscribers.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1836.

(For the Silk Manual)

Mr FESSENDEN—I avail myself of the medium of your Journal, devoted to the dissemination of information relating to the cultivation of the Mulberry, and the raising and manufacturing of silk in the United States, to communicate such intelligence as the results of others, and my own experience may from time to time furnish.

The whole subject of the growth and manufacture of silk in this country, is receiving the attention of intelligent and discerning individuals, in public and in private, which its importance demands. And the liberal provisions for its encouragement, by the legislatures of most of the New England States, will give to this business in its incipient stages, an impetus which will carry it onward, till it becomes one of the great sources of individual and national prosperity.

The silk business will naturally divide itself into three great departments: first, the cultivation of the Mulberry and raising the Cocoons. Second, the production of raw silk and threads in the first degrees of manufacture, as singles, organzine, tram, &c. Third, the various productions of the loom, from the simplest trimming, to the most perfect and elegant fabric.

These departments may be divided or combined as the interest or convenience of those engaged in them may render expedient.

Connected with the first department, I have furnished the following estimates of the number of pounds of leaves consumed by 200,000 worms, reared from five ounces of eggs, each day through their five successive changes. The experiments from which these estimates are taken, were made in Italy in the years 1813 and 1814, and the standard weight of that country changed to the standard weight of the United States.

First Age.	1813	*Pounds of Leaves.*
1st day	May 18	4
2d "	" 19	7
3d "	" 20	14
4th "	" 21	8
5th "	" 22	2
		—35
Second Age.		
6th day	" 23	21
7th "	" 24	35
8th "	" 25	38½
9th "	" 26	10½
		——105
Third Age.		
10th day	" 27	35
11th "	" 28	105
12th "	" 29	114
13th "	" 30	61
14th "	" 31	35
15th "	June 1	00
		——350
Fourth Age.		
16th day	" 2	113½
17th "	" 3	192½
18th "	" 4	262½
19th "	" 5	297½
20th "	" 6	149
21st "	" 7	35
22d "	" 8	00
		——1050
Fifth Age.		
23d day	" 9	210
24th "	" 10	315
25th "	" 11	490
26th "	" 12	630
27th "	" 13	945
28th "	" 14	1137½
29th "	" 15	1050
30th "	" 16	770
31st "	" 17	577½
32d "	" 18	280
		——6405

First age	35
Second "	105
Third "	350
Fourth "	1050
Fifth "	6405
Consumed	7945
Unconsumed	831
Lost	612
	9388

First Age.	1814	*Pounds of Leaves.*
1st day	May 23	2¼
2d "	" 24	4
3d "	" 25	5½
4th "	" 26	10¼
5th "	" 27	9
6th "	" 28	4½
		—36
Second Age.		
7th day	" 29	9¼
8th "	" 30	17
9th "	" 31	27
10th "	June 1	26
11th "	" 2	12½
12th "	" 3	2
		—94
Third Age.		
13th day	" 4	24¼
14th "	" 5	52¼
15th "	" 6	70
16th "	" 7	105
17th "	" 8	87½
18th "	" 9	35
19th "	" 10	3¼
		—378
Fourth Age.		
20th day	" 11	87½
21st "	" 12	149
22d "	" 13	210
23d "	" 14	227½
24th "	" 15	280
25th "	" 16	122¼
26th "	" 17	8½
		—1085
Fifth Age.		
27th day	" 18	210
28th "	" 19	315
29th "	" 20	420
30th "	" 21	542½
31st "	" 22	630
32d "	" 23	790
33d "	" 24	960
34th "	" 25	1137½
35th "	" 26	875
36th "	" 27	490
37th "	" 28	315
		—6685

First age	36
Second "	94
Third "	378
Fourth "	1085
Fifth "	6685
Consumed	8278
Unconsumed	700
Lost	507
	9485

The experiment of 1814 was made during a remarkably cool and damp season; which accounts for the protracted length of the several ages, and of the want of vigor in the insects.

According to results which have actually been made, the average produce of 200,000 worms, estimating 296 cocoons to a pound, will be 675 pounds of cocoons, and will yield 75 pounds of raw silk; which, at five dollars per pound, will amount to 375 dollars, and including the bounty on 675 pounds of cocoons $67,50; and the bounty on 75 pounds of raw silk, $37,50, the whole amount will be $480, presenting a prospect of remuneration for agricultural labor, worthy the attention of every farmer and of profitable employment to every family in New England.

FRANKLIN.

THE CULTURE OF SILK.

We have obtained from Mr Bartlett, the copy of a letter from the Rev. Dr WOOD, of Boscawen, which he read at the lecture delivered by him, on the *Culture of Silk*, before the Lyceum on Tuesday last. Mr Bartlett introduced the letter with a brief notice of the life and services of Dr Wood, paying a high and just tribute of praise to that distinguished and venerable clergyman.

The letter contains interesting facts in relation to the culture of silk, and they have the advantage of coming from most unquestioned authority. We publish the letter entire.—*Portsmouth Journal of March* 26.

"BOSCAWEN, Dec. 7, 1835.

ICHABOD BARTLETT, Esq.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiries, I observe—It is about thirtyfive years since I brought of the White Mulberry tree, from Connecticut, a sprout of one year's growth. About ten years after, I brought from Connecticut some eggs of the silk worm. The tree that I first brought is about thirtyfive or six years old, and I have made silk from the leaves of about twentyfive years. I have annually stripped the tree of all its leaves in the month of June, for those twentyfive years in succession. The tree is yet in a flourishing state. When I raised young trees from the seeds of my old tree, I gave them away; till within a few years since, I have saved a few, which are yet small. From my old tree, I have made silk—a large supply for my family's use, and have had an overplus of several dollars worth annually.

The last year, with some help from my young trees, the silk was valued at more than twenty dollars. This year I did not lay out so largely. Perhaps I had four thousand worms. The trees which I brought from Connecticut, I have preserved for about twenty odd years, and they are equally good now as when I first had them.

My object has not been to multiply the trees as I might have done, but to learn the nature of the business,—and I am satisfied that the cultivation of silk may be made useful and profitable in this country.

I am yours in the bonds of friendship.

SAMUEL WOOD."

Horses that are confined in a stable never have the staggers.—*Dr. Mason.*

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BRIGHTON MARKET,—Monday, April 11, 1836.

Reported for the Daily Advertiser & Patriot.

At Market 455 Beef Cattle, (including 100 unsold last week,) 48 pair Working Oxen, 10 Cows and Calves, 340 Swine. 40 Beef Cattle unsold.

Prices—*Beef Cattle*—About last week's, prices were obtained for a like quality; better cattle were sold, consequently higher prices were obtained. We quote a few extra at 43s 6d a 45s; first quality at 39s a 42s; second do. at 33s a 36s; third do. 29s a 32s.

Working Oxen.—We notice sales at $55, 58, 64, 71, 88, 105 and 120.

Cows and Calves.—Sales were noticed at $22, 24, 28, and 30.

Sheep—None at market.

Swine—All sold. Lots to peddle were taken at 7 1-2 and 7 1-4 for Sows, and 8 1-8 and 8 1-4 for Barrows. A lot to be delivered at Worcester was contracted for at 7 3-8 and 8 3-8. At retail 8 and 9.

25,000 WHITE MULBERRY TREES.

The Subscriber will engage, if applied for soon, a part or whole of the above number of White Mulberry Trees, very thrifty and in good order, to be delivered in the spring.

Feb. 3 G. C. BARRETT.

SPLENDID DAHLIA ROOTS.

Just received from the Lancaster Gardens, a fine assortment of splendid Dahlia Roots. For sale at the New England Seed Store.

Subscriptions and payments to the Silk Manual will be received by the following named

AGENTS.

New York—G. C. Thorburn, 11 John-street.
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St. Louis—Geo. Holton

PRINTED BY TUTTLE, WEEKS & DENNETT, School Street.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

		FROM	TO
Apples, Russetts and Baldwins.	barrel	1 50	2 25
Beans, white,	bushel	2 00	2 50
Beef, mess,	barrel	12 75	13 00
Cargo, No. 1.	"	10 25	11 75
prime,	"	8 50	9 00
Beeswax, (American)	pound	27	29
Butter store, No. 1	"	20	22
Cheese, new milk,	"	8	9
Feathers, northern, geese,	"	46	50
southern, geese,	"	42	45
Flax, American,	"	9	10
Fish, Cod,	quintal	3 25	3 37
Flour, Genesee, cash	barrel	8 37	8 56
Baltimore, Howard street,	"	7 75	7 87
Baltimore, wharf,	"	7 62	7 75
Alexandria,	"	7 75	7 87
Grain, Corn, northern yellow none.	bushel		1 00
southern flat yellow	"	90	95
white,	"	80	84
Rye, northern,	"	1 25	1 25
Barley,	"	90	1 00
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	60	65
Hay, best English, per ton of 2000 lbs		25 00	30 00
eastern screwed,	"	23 00	26 00
hard pressed,	"	24 00	27 00
Honey,	gallon		
Hops, 1st quality	pound	13	14
2d quality	"	11	12
Lard, Boston, 1st sort,	"	16	16
southern, 1st sort,	"	16	16
Leather, slaughter, sole,	"	19	20
do. upper,	"	12	14
dry hide, sole,	"	19	21
do. upper,	"	18	20
Philadelphia, sole.	"	27	29
Baltimore, sole,	"	25	27
Lime, best sort,	cask	1 17	1 20
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.		4 00	
Pork, Mass. inspect. extra clear,	barrel	27 00	27 50
Navy, mess	"		
bone, middlings, scarce.	"		
Seeds, Herd's Grass,	bushel	3 62	3 87
Red Top,	"	75	80
Red Clover, northern	pound	12	13
Silk Cocoons, (American)	bushel		
Tallow, tried,	cwt.	8 50	9 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,	pound	65	75
American, full blood, washed,	"	55	65
do. 3-4ths do.	"	55	58
do. 1-2 do.	"		50
do. 1-4 and common	"	40	45
Native washed	"	38	60
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,	"	58	60
1st Lambs,	"	50	53
2d do.	"	40	41
3d do.	"	30	35
1st Spinning,	"	48	50
Southern pulled wool is generally 5 cts. less per lb.			

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

Hams, northern,	pound	14	15
southern, and western,	"	13	13
Pork, whole hogs,	"	9	10
Poultry,	"	11	15
Butter, (tub)	"	18	20
lump	"	22	25
Eggs,	dozen	16	18
Potatoes,	bushel	40	50
Cider,	barrel	1 75	2 00

ORDERS FOR PRINTING RECEIVED BY THE PUBLISHER.

(From the New England Farmer.)

SILK CULTURE.

Mr Fessenden:—Having recently received from a valued corresponding member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Paris, a pamphlet, containing a report of the Committee of Agriculture of the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry, on the subject of the management of silk worms, embracing various important facts, as exhibited in the result of a course of experiments made by *M. C. Beauvais*, in his extensive establishment near Paris, I have thought that a translation of this report would be interesting to those who are engaged in this particular pursuit; in fact, so extensive are the preparations now making in various parts of our country to pursue this branch of industry, that it is important we should closely observe whatever is takingp lace abroad in relation to it, which purports to be new.

The valuable services rendered to the community by the exertions of those meritorious individuals who have acted as pioneers in the introduction of the cultivation of silk into our country, and whose names are familiar to us all, cannot be too highly appreciated; with their continued aid we need not fear but that the ingenuity of our countrymen will arrive at the true process to be pursued under our own climate, and which the venerable and learned M. du Ponceau has denominated the *American System*; but it cannot be denied we are as yet, practically, in the infancy of this pursuit, and it is important that we should be made acquainted with the latest views and opinions of distinguished men of silk growing countries on the subject; we want to know the details of important experiments; as well those which eventuate in failure, as success; in fact, we want the whole subject before us, and when it is recollected that this report is from the pen of the distinguished chevalier *Soulange Bodin*, founder of the Royal Horticultural Institute of Fromont, and one of the most eminent patrons of every branch of rural economy in Europe at the present day, it will not fail to attract the degree of attention which it deserves.

The propositions presented by the conclusions arrived at by M. Beauvais, under his particular process of management, are,

That the climate of the north of France is equally propitious to the cultivation of the silk worm as that of the south.

An augmentation of the product of an ounce of seed from 50 to 55 pounds of cocoons (the medium product in the south of France) to 137 pounds, the result of his last year's process.

A great improvement in the quality of the silk, and producing a much higher marketable price, and these flattering results are attributed very much to a new method of ventilating the apartments, and thereby sustaining an equal temperature and a pure air, adapted to this purpose by *M. d'Arcet*, and considered an improvement on that of the celebrated *Count Dandolo*.

An expectation of second annual crops, about to be attempted, for the success of which reliance is placed on the *Morus Multicaulis*.

But, as the report very frankly states, whatever confidence this remarkable experiment merits, or has already obtained, it must be repeated by different persons, in different places, and under different circumstances, to give it full weight and consideration with the community at large.

With great respect,
your obedient servant,
Elijah Vose,

Dorchester, April 9, 1836.

REPORT

Made to the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry, by M. Soulange Bodin, on behalf of the Committee of Agriculture, on a mode of managing Silk Worms pursued by M. Camille Beauvais, in the domain of Bergeries de Senart, near Montgeron, department of Seine-et-Marne.

You have referred, gentlemen, to your committee of Agriculture, the examination of a letter which was addressed to you the 20th of June last, by M. Camille Beauvais. It brings before you one of the most important questions of agricultural economy which is agitated at the present day.

In fact, among the thousand particular objects of industry which your institution aids and encourages, a certain number attain gradually, each year, degrees of perfection which you hasten to prove, to reward, and to render profitable to all; and there can only be seen in these successive ameliorations, the happy symptoms and the anticipated results of that great phenomenon which characterises modern society, *progression*. Every thing advances under the same secret impulse, that of the good of the individual, towards the same apparent end, that of the general good; and in this universal movement governed by a high philanthropy, each one receives quietly in his turn the reward of his own efforts, under the common banner of a well regulated emulation, which has neither within itself, nor does it give rise to any germ of discord or dissention.

But it is not so when a question arises, embracing one of those bold, exclusive, innovating ideas, representing an entire system, which at times bursts forth from ardent minds, whose natural enthusiasm is supported by profound conviction, and which astonishes the multitude, and tends to displace some old order of things. These new and arbitrary ideas, must of consequence contend

with inveterate habits, call in question judgment anciently acquired, and raise up against themselves prejudices supported by the sanction of time; a conflict of opinion may then arise, during which human judgment will long combat with natural facts; and truth, on whichever side it may be found, will sometimes be slow to triumph.

It is, gentlemen, a spectacle of this kind that a skilful cultivator presents before you to-day; one who some years since, established himself near Paris, upon an indifferent and forbidding soil, and destitute of water. It might be said that this individual had only wished to gain a foothold upon our territory; that calculating in advance, but little from the profits of the plough, he sought only a small spot upon which he might realize the treasure which then existed only in his mind.

That treasure which M. Beauvais now exhibits before you, was at first, in fact, but an abstract idea, which he would have presented in this form: "To establish his own fortune, and the advancement of the public good, by a truly profitable method of management of the culture of silk in the centre and the north of France."

After long experiments, he believes, at last, to have caused to spring up from his arid soil, a new source of public and private wealth, and far from wishing to keep the enjoyment of it exclusively to himself, he invites us all to draw from the same source, which would be inexhaustible, in fact, if his zeal for the public good has not greatly led him astray.

M. Beauvais belongs to the South; it was easy for him to have fixed his establishment there, and to have conducted it upon the principles which were already familiar to him; he was aware of the efforts which had been vainly attempted in preceding ages to cultivate silk worms in the North. Everything attracted him to one side—everything repelled him from the other; but he said to himself: "Every branch of industry is on the advance. Why should that of the culture of silk remain forever nearly in the state it was when it passed from Italy into France? The sciences of natural philosophy and chemistry, whose recent discoveries may be considered as new, and of which it may invoke the aid, hardly then existed for the cultivator of the field. Must then this branch of industry remain irrevocably confined to its ancient cradle? Its losses, which have been sometimes so discouraging, ought they to be rather attributed to the constitution of the precious insect which is the basis of it, than to the impurity of the places in which it is confined, and to the variations of the atmosphere which press so heavily on a life at once so full and so short? They will not be attributed to the North, where at the present time the raising of silk worms is not pursued, when they so cruelly afflict that happy climate of the South, reputed to be exclusively propitious to them. Wherever the mulberry grows and prospers, the worm which spins its leaf must be able to grow and prosper also. Let us not always despise the providential relations of beings! Why could I not create, under the shelter where that worm accomplishes his destiny, an isolated climate free from all local influence? I could even more easily guard it against the less pernicious effects of the North, than against the capricious temperatures of the South. But what do I say? it will no longer be a question of North or South; for I already see that it will be possible so to control and to combine in their narrow asylum fire and water, those two promoters of all organic action, and to imitate for them even those winds which sustain abroad the salubrity of the air, and dissipate afar the deleterious miasma."

I have put these words into the mouth of M. Beauvais, not, gentlemen, to add a value to his cause here, but because they in fact express what deep and intense thought has presided in his establishment, and recapitulate the principles upon which all his labors have been based. It has been at his own expense, at his own risk, that during nearly seven years, under the influence of his own convictions he has put these principles into practice, with constantly increasing results, without permitting himself to be discouraged by some mistakes which he has candidly acknowledged, and without being intimidated by the uneasiness of his friends, and by the doubts which he saw arise, like clouds, ready to obscure the brilliancy of his first successes, and perhaps to annihilate his most cherished hopes.

It would be superfluous to enter here into the general details of culture or of agricultural operations, which every friend of agriculture is admitted, is invited, to observe in the establishment of the Bergeries. They have been elsewhere described, and that is not the question before us; it is sufficient for me to say that 67,000 mulberry trees of the best sorts and the finest vegetation, among which are seen a great number of the *Morus multicaulis*, on which M. Beauvais principally founds his hopes for second annual crops, which he proposes to undertake, cover there, in nurseries and distinct plantations, 16 hectares and a half of ground, (about 41 acres.)

The establishment, so far as it has advanced, will be able to produce annually, with as little delay as the condition of its young trees will admit, 150 ounces of seed. During the five last years, the medium product of an ounce in the establishments of the South, has not exceeded 50 to 55 pounds of cocoons, that is to say about 10,000 worms only out of 42,000 which the ounce contains, have arrived at that last period, which connects a simple worm with the enjoyments of refined civilization; whilst

the first year's process of M. Beauvais, gave him 67 pounds of cocoons to the ounce of seed; he has been constantly in progress during the years 1830, 1831, 1832 and 1833; in 1834, he obtained 104 pounds. All these facts are generally known; the results of his last year's procress was 137 pounds—in this, 8 ounces of seed were employed; it was made under a temperature of 18 to 20 deg. of heat by the themometre of Reaumur; (73 to 77 deg. of Fahrenheit;) it occupied thirtyseven days, and consumed 16,830 pounds, (8,415 kilogr.) of leaves, not pealed, taken from mulberry trees, the one half of which were grafted the other wild; it produced 1,101 pounds and three quarters (551 kilogr.) of cocoons of the finest quality, large, firm and of an admirable whiteness. It does not appear that a similar result has been previously elsewhere obtained in any other large establishments, nevertheless, M. Beauvais is the first to inform us that one of his pupils, M. Henri Bourdon, recently from the polytechnic school, and a proprietor at Ris, has just finished an experimental process, of which the product was in the ratio of 170 pounds of cocoons to the ounce of seed.

[To be concluded.]

Deterioration of Silk Worms.—A superstitious notion formerly prevailed to a considerable extent that the eggs of the silk worm must be changed every two or three years to prevent the deterioration of the worm. This notion, like many others of the same class, is at war with reason and science. The supposition that good cocoons, after a few years, are no longer fit to produce good seed, is ridiculously absurd. The time has gone by when the idle and foolish theories of Buffon, Robertson, De Pauw and others, respecting the tendency of nature "to be little" and degenerate every thing in the new world, are received as truths. Facts also have settled the question that silk worms will not degenerate, except as a consequence of neglect, or the long propagation of those of diminutive size.—*Silk Culturist.*

Scarcity of Hay.—The Greenfield Mercury remarks:—"We regret to hear that a scarcity of hay is beginning to be severely felt in many of the towns in this county — particularly in the hill towns west of us. Many farmers have scarcely a lock of hay left, and are unable to procure it except at exorbitant prices. Meantime their stock is suffering extremely. A farmer in Heath, we understand, lost five cows last week from absolute starvation, and a farmer in another town upwards of twenty sheep from the same cause: the depth of the snow preventing their going into the woods to browse. We have heard of one or two instances where farmers have offered their cows at $5, and sheep for their fleeces when sheared, and been unable to dispose of them, even at that rate. We apprehend that this scarcity arises not so much from an absolute deficiency of hay in consequence of the light crop of last year, as from the withholding for a higher price, of those who cut their usual quantity, and who have tons of a surplus to dispose of. If the hay actually in possession were more equally distributed, we have no doubt there would be a sufficiency for all, enough at least to prevent much suffering."

The Northampton Courier says: "Hay is scarce beyond example. The 'hill towns' are suffering much, and the valley little better off. Hay is selling for twentyfive dollars, and it can hardly be had for love or money. We were told the other day, that if all the hay in the town of Goshen should be put before the cattle, it would not last them twentyfour hours. The mildness of the weather will soon enable sheep to *browse*, and in this way a great saving will be had in the shape of provender."

Rail Roads in the United States.—It is estimated on good authority, that at this time, the rail roads in the United States, either actually under contract, or in progress of being surveyed, amount to more than three thousand miles. Each yard of the highest iron rails, fit for a rail road, weighs sixtytwo and half pounds. As there are 1760 yards in a mile, each mile of rail road with a double track, will require two hundred and thirtyeight tons of rails, besides chains, screw and bolts, amounting in the whole to at least 250 tons of iron per mile — 250 multiplied by 3000, is seven hundred and fifty thousand tons of iron, that will shortly be used in the United States, in the construction of rail roads.

Such is the demand for rail road iron in England for the American market, that common bar iron, which one year ago, was worth only £6 10s. stg. in Wales is now worth £9 10s. at the Welsh works; as appears by the British Prices Current.

It is stated in the New York papers that at this time contracts have been actually made in England by American Houses, for four hundred thousand tons of rail road iron, to be shipped to this country.

£9 10s. sterling is about fortyfive dollars of our money; but rail road iron costs more than common bar iron, and is at this time worth at least $50 per ton, at the works in Wales or Staffordshire. Four hundred thousand tons of iron at $50 per ton, is *twenty millions of dollars*, that the people of the United States are bound to pay to the English by their present contracts for rail road iron. If all the projected rail roads of this country shall be laid down with British iron rail, we shall pay to the English nation within the next seven years, at least *fifty millions of dollars for rail road iron.*

And yet, we have in our mountains both iron ore and coal, of the best quality, and in quantities sufficient to yield iron for the whole world.—*Penn. Tel.*

A Broom Corn mania is getting up in this region, and the coming spring, from appearances, little else will be seen in meadows. Broom brush is unexampled in price, selling readily at fifteen cents, and ashes to put on broom corn land, sell now at twentyfive cents per bushel in this village. The produce of an acre of Broom corn was sold the other day in this town for $130!—*ib.*

Sewing Silk is selling in Northampton at $10½ per lb. It is becoming a scarce article, and already we feel the necessity of having our Northampton Silk Company in operation. It has been ascertained by a careful computation, that not less than $15,000 worth of silk stuffs were sold in this town during the year 1835. One firm sold $4000 worth. Only think of that! *Fifteen thousand dollars* sent out of this single town to purchase the one luxurious article of Silk! when if our farmers had had the business of silk growing in their eye five years since, this comfortable amount could have just as well been put in their own pockets. What one item of produce is there raised in the Northampton meadows which furnishes an income of $15,000?—*Courier.*

The Beef Cattle in this region are thinning out fast. A number more superior animals from South street, left for Brighton on Monday. The Republican says, there are about eighty head remaining in Northampton, three hundred in Hatfield, one hundred and eighty in Deerfield, and sixty in Greenfield. In Northfield, Hadley, and Amherst about one hundred. The drovers from abroad have been through the neighboring towns, but the cattle are held higher by the feeders than they are willing to pay.—*ib.*

Early Frugality.—In early childhood you lay the foundation of poverty or riches, in the habits you give your children. Teach them to save everything;—not for their *own* use, for that would make them selfish—but for *some* use.—Teach them to share everything with their playmates; but never allow them to destroy anything. I once visited a family where the most exact economy was observed; yet nothing was mean or uncomfortable. It is the character of true economy to be as comfortable with a little, as others are with much. In this family, when the father brought home a package, the older children would, of their own accord, put away the paper and twine neatly, instead of throwing them in the fire, or tearing them to pieces. If the little ones wanted a piece of twine to spin a top there it was in readiness, and when they threw it upon the floor, the older children had no need to be told to put it again in its place.

Curing Hams.—A subscriber hands us the following receipt as a superior one for curing hams, which has until recently been held as a secret, and now for the first time published. Take 2 oz. saltpetre, and one large teaspoonful of pearlash to 16 lbs. of ham, add molasses in the proportion of one gallon to the hogshead. Make the salt pickle as strong as possible, dissolve all the above ingredients, put them in the pickle, and pour it on the hams. Let them remain in the pickle under weight, for six weeks, and smoke them during the cold weather. They will keep an indefinite period, and equal in flavor to any in the world.—*Huron Reflector.*

To restore Tainted Beef.—In the last fall I procured an acquaintance of mine in the country to put up a barrel of fat beef for my family's use during the winter. The barrel of beef was sent to me agreeable to contract; but before I had used one quarter part of it I observed it tainted, and so much so as to smell quite offensive. The beef being very fat and fine I was loth to throw it away. I made the following experiment: I procured a half bushel of charcoal, and after taking out the beef and throwing away the offensive pickle, I repacked it in the barrel, laying the pieces of charcoal between the pieces; and making a new pickle, and adding a little saltpetre, I covered the beef, and in about sixty days found it as sweet and good as it was when first put up.

Salt a Manure for Cotton.—Alexander Jones, M. D., recommends, in the American Farmer, the use of salt as a manure to improve the staple of cotton. He says, if sea island cotton be planted for several years in succession in the interior of the country, it degenerates into the short staple cotton. In support of the benefit from salt, it is said that cotton in the vicinity of salt springs and licks is of a larger staple.

Gold Coinage.—The select committee in the House of Representatives have reported in favor of coining gold pieces of the value of one, two and three dollars.

Important to the Ladies—A letter from an American lady in England says, that during her stay of some months, she had not yet seen a lady with earrings! and this is the very centre of fashion—London!

FENCE POSTS.—An excellent method of rendering these durable in the ground, is published in the American Eagle. It consists, 1. In peeling the posts, and in sawing and splitting them if too large; 2. In sticking them up, under cover, at least one entire summer; and 3. In coating with hot tar, about 3 feet of the butt ends, which are to be inserted in the ground—after which they are ready for use. We have no doubt the advantages of this mode of preparation will more than remunerate for labor and expense. Our reasons for this belief are briefly as follows: The sap of all non-resinous trees, will ferment in the presence of heat and moisture, and cause the decay of the wood. To prevent this natural consequence, the first object should be, when a tree is felled, to expel the sap from the pores of the wood. This is done by peeling, splitting, sawing or hewing, and exposing the wood to the drying influence of the sun, or at least of the air. The process is facilitated too by immersing the wood in water for a time. which liquifies the sap, and favors its expulsion, And when the moisture has been expelled, the next object is to keep it out, by paint, tar or charring. In the mode recommended above, the moisture is expelled by the peeling, sawing and summer drying, and its return is prevented by the coating of tar. The retention of the bark upon the timber is particularly prejudicial, not only in preventing evaporation, but affording shelter to various species of the borer, which, under its cover, carry on its depredations upon the timber. We have seen pine logs nearly destroyed in a summer by worms, where the bark had been left on, while those which had been peeled remained uninjured. The best timber is obtained from trees which have stood a summer, or a year, after they have been girdled and peeled.—*Cultivator.*

LIQUID MANURE.—Liquid manure may be here [at Ghent] named, and very justly so, their *summum bonum*; as if applied when the corn is sprouting, or just before a rain, it has an effect which no other manure can have. It destroys insects, and throws a surprising degree of vigor into the crops. It is pumped [from the tanks under ground, into which it is conducted by drains from the stables, &c.] into a barrel-shaped water cart; and, when brought upon the land, the plug is taken out, and the liquid, flowing over a board something in the shape of a fan, as the cart proceeds, is dispersed on both sides, over a space, perhaps 4 or 5 feet. The cart has generally three wheels.—*Lon. Gar. Mag.*

BETTER THAN A GOLD MINE.—The Exchange in New Orleans will be built of Granite, obtained at the quarries in Quincy, near Boston. Beyond all mines of silver and gold is the Quincy quarry.

CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE.—It is stated that the celebrated chemist Lavoisier cultivated 240 acres of land in La Vendee on chemical principles, in order to set a good example to the farmers. His mode of culture was attended with so much success, that his crops amounted to a third more than those which were produced by the usual method; and in nine years his annual produce was doubled. Yet the generality of our yeomanry would as soon think of studying Hebrew, as the elementary principles of chemistry.—*Gibbon's Adv. of Sci.*

TOMATO.—It is said that the juice of the tomato vine contains a most superb innate green coloring, which is said to have been used as a dye, and may be made of all the various shades of green, from the dark to light pale green and when mixed with other colors, this green coloring is thought to have a stronger basis than any other vegetable.

A BAKED POTATO PUDDING.—Mix twelve ounces of potatoes boiled, skimmed, and mashed, 1 oz. of cheese grated fine; add as much boiling water as is necessary to produce a due consistency, and bake it in an earthern pan.—*Yankee Farmer.*

LINSEED COUGH SYRUP.—Boil an ounce of linseed in a quart of water, till half wasted; then add six ounces of moist sugar two ounces of sugar candy, half an ounce of Spanish liquorice, and the juice of a large lemon. Let the whole slowly simmer together, till it becomes of a syrupy consistence; when cold put to it two table spoonsfull of the best old rum.

MAPLE SUGAR.—The maple sugar season is upon us now, and during the sunny days and freezing nights which we have towards the end of March and the beginning of April, the farmer and the "farmer's boys," may be seen in the maple lots with all their apparatus, buckets, spouts, kettles, &c. for manufacturing this valuable and delicious article. In time it will be found in the Boston market, vieing in richness and whiteness with the best loaf sugar.—*Claremont, N. H. Eagle.*

New York Cattle Market, April 4.—At market 600 Beef Cattle, 500 Sheep: demand for Beef fair and prices about the same as last week, nearly all taken at 7 1-2 to 12 1-2, average $9 1-2 the 100 lbs. Sheep—in good demand, 300 sold at 3 1-2 to 5 1-2.—*Jour of Com.*

SEA WATER AS MANURE.—Several instances are recorded of the benefits of salt water. The potato crop has been very considerably increased by it. It should not be applied when the ground is dry, lest it kill young and tender plants and injure others.

NEW MODE OF REARING ASPARAGUS.

The asparagus seed should be sown from the middle of March to the last of April, in a rich spot, (not too much exposed to the mid-day sun,) one inch deep, and the seed one inch apart; after they come up, to be kept clear of grass and weeds during the summer, by hand weeding, to be dug up the next fall or spring — (I prefer the spring, as the roots do not grow during the winter, if set out in the fall, and are liable to be killed by a severe winter) — and set in beds prepared as follows: Dig out the size of the beds nine inches deep — cover the bottom three inches deep with rich marl, (which has been my practice,) though I believe that oyster shells half burned will be as good, as it is intended as a lasting heating manure to protect the roots in winter, and force the vegetable early in the spring: then put three inches deep of coarse stable manure, then three inches of rich earth. This brings the beds on a level with the surface of the earth. Next lay off the beds in rows eighteen by twelve inches apart, and put a single eye or spire in each spot where the lines intersect, and cover them three inches deep with rich earth. Plank the sides of the beds, as this prevents grass and other roots from running into the beds, and also keeps the outside roots from being exposed, by the sides of beds washing away. The beds should be kept clean by hand weeding, and all the earth and manure used in making them, should be perfectly free from grass roots and noxious weeds. In the fall of the year, after the seeds have matured, cut the tops off close to the beds, (being careful that not a single seed is left to vegetate on the beds,) as they have already as many roots as the space they occupy should contain, and if additional roots are suffered to form from year to year from the falling of the seed every fall, the beds will soon be so much clustered with roots that the vegetable must degenerate, at least in size and length, as the new roots form near, or on the surface. Some prevent this by burning, but I think the best way is to pick them off by hand, before the ball that contains the seed breaks. You then top dress the beds with coarse stable manure, let it lie on all winter, and in the following spring rake off the coarsest part, and fork in the remainder, being careful that the fork does not touch the roots. Pursue this course two falls, and early in the third spring, before the beds are forked up, put on two inches of light well rotted manure — fork it in with the stable manure, then put on from three to four inches deep of clean sand from the river shore, and you will cut in the month of April the best vegetable we have in Virginia. I would not give my beds for the balance of my garden. I think there is much in the kind of seed. I obtained mine from New York — they were marked "Giant Asparagus."

The cover of sand is important on several accounts; it being a great absorber of heat and moisture, so soon as the vegetable gets through the soil, it is hastily thrown through the sand to the surface in a bleached tender state, and the cutting from day to day is more uniformly of the same tender delicious vegetable. The sand also prevents grass from growing on the beds, which obviates the necessity of so much hand weeding during the season for cutting, by which the beds frequently become trampled, and the vegetable that is about to come through the surface mashed down, which not only destroys the spires that are so trampled on by the gardener in the process of hand weeding, but, I think, injures the roots.— The sand should be laid in the alleys between the beds, in the fall, when the beds are about to receive the top-dressing of stable litter to keep them warm through the winter; and when the sand is about to be replaced in the spring, it should be passed through a sieve of such size as will not let the balls (that contain the seed) pass through. This will be another means of preventing the seed from vegetating on the beds. There is a practice very prevalent with gardeners to plant lettuce, radishes, and other early vegetables on the beds; this should never be done, and particularly with radishes, as they have a long root that extends to the roots of the asparagus, and must seriously interfere with them.

I frequently cut asparagus from three to five and a half, and once I cut a spire six inches in circumference, and from five to eight inches long; it could have been cut longer, but it is never tender near the root.—*Correspondent of Farmers' Register.*

COCKROACHES.—A gentlemen has recently discovered that spirits of turpentine is an effectual remedy against the depredations of cockroaches. He recommends to put a little of it upon the shelves or sides of bookcases, bureaus, armories, or furniture in which they take shelter, and these troublesome insects will soon quit not only the furniture, but the room. The remedy is simple, and easily obtained by every person who wishes it. It is not unpleasant to the smell, soon evaporates, and does no injury to the furniture or clothing.

VITAL PRINCIPLE OF SEEDS.—A small portion of the Royal Park of Bushy was broken up some time ago, for the purpose of ornamental culture, when immediately several flowers sprang up, of the kinds which are ordinarily cultivated in gardens; this led to an investigation, and it was ascertained that identical spot had been used as a garden not later than the time of Oliver Cromwell, more than one hundred and fifty years before.— *Monthly Mag.*

MULBERRY TREES.

Mr Fessenden :—By answering the following queries through the New England Farmer, you will oblige a subscriber.

First.—Can the common White Mulberry be successfuliy cultivated by the slip?

The reason for this inquiry is, that among my mulberry trees there is a great difference in the quality of the leaves; while some are large and valuable, others are small, and of very little value; but those producing the best leaves, produce very little, if any fruit. And I have thought, that if we could propagate from the good trees by the slip, we might get a variety much more valuable than those raised from the seed.

Second.—Is the foliage of trees increased by being propagated by the slip, or by grafting? If it is not increased,

Third.—Why are the leaves of those varieties of apples which have long been propagated in that way, larger than those of the natural tree?

Fourth.—Do fruits, whether apples, pears, quinces, or grapes, lose their seeds in any degree by being propagated by the slip, or by grafting? We often see raisins destitute of seeds, and

Fifth.—How is that quality obtained?

There are many reasons which have led to the suggestion of these inquiries, but I will not presume to offer them at present. A. H.

Sterling, Feb. 23, 1836.

By the Editor.—With regard to the first question, I would reply that the mulberry is propagated by seeds, by layers, by cuttings, or by engrafting. By the first method the seed should be sown early in May in a rich, fresh, and well prepared soil, in drills, or rows, two feet asunder, and at an average distance of about an inch in the rows. Cover the seed half an inch deep, and stamp or roll the ground immediately. Keep the young plants free from weeds during summer, and before winter commences protect them with a slight covering of straw, evergreens, light manure, or old hay; or take them up, and secure them from frost in a cellar.

By layers.—Bend the side shoots down, and secure them by hooks, and partly cover them with earth, leaving out only their extreme ends. If this is done in spring, or the fore part of summer, the parts in the ground take root, and are cut from the main plants in the fall.

Cuttings.—The twigs or branches of the young wood, or part young and part old, are cut in lengths of about six inches, and close below an eye; these are set more than two thirds of their length beneath the soil, and the ground trodden about the scions.

Grafting or inoculating.—Writers have recommended to graft the common sorts of mulberry with the larger and finer varieties, which produce larger, better and more numerous leaves. Perhaps the Chinese mulberry might be successfully propagated by grafting it on the common white mulberry, and the scion partake of the hardihood of the stock. This, however, is doubted, and experiments on that subject are desirable. It is said, in a periodical devoted to silk culture, published at Albany, that "in this country, the cultivation [of the mulberry] is so easy, and the growth so rapid, there seems to be little necessity for any other mode than raising from the seed."

With regard to increasing the foliage of trees by propagating from slips or grafting; obtaining apples, pears, quinces, grapes, &c. without seeds, we believe that great discoveries and improvements may be made. Darwin's Phytologia has much on the subject of so managing fruit trees as to induce the production of fruits instead of leaves, converting leaf buds into flower buds, &c. which may lead not only to curious, but to useful speculation. We should be glad to hear further from "A. H." on these and other topics connected with the objects of our publication.

[From the Baltimore Farmer.]

We published, some months since, a description of the apparatus used by the Hon. Charles A. Barnitz, of York, Pennsylvania, for boiling food for his stock, and from the deservedly high reputation of that gentleman as a scientific and practical farmer, combined with its very *moderate cost*, it created no little attention, and we have had several inquiries made of us to know, whether it were possible that efficient fixtures could be put up for so trifling an amount; but the most amusing of all the inquiries was one built upon a mistaken construction of that gentleman's description, which, by the bye, was so plain and easily understood that he that run might read. But to dissolve the doubts built up in the imagination of our correspondent, we addressed a letter to Mr Barnitz, asking an explanation, which will be found below in the form of a description, and which he gave us with that promptness and cordiality of feeling which is at once so honorable to the donor and so grateful to the recipient of favors. For ourself, and in the name of the agricultural community, whom upon this as upon numerous other occasions he has benefitted so much, we tender him our sincere thanks.

CHEAP BOILING APPARATUS.

"Take a kettle or vessel of the capacity of forty gallons; (the cast iron kettles are to be had at every hardware store, or foundry) place one of them over a small draft or flue about a foot square, and carry the flue up behind the vessel in the shape of a chimney — made so that the greatest

possible heat may be in contact at the bottom, and back part of the kettle. A rough board shed is put round the whole to shelter it, say about eight feet square, and the chimney is topped out above the roof of this shed.

In about two hours a hogshead of slop may be had from boiled potatoes, or refuse vegetables, which, with a little mixture of corn meal and salt, will furnish a day's keep for 40 or 50 pigs, of the most nourishing, healthy and economical kind."

The expense of this fixture is stated in the former account at $8, and we would ask, will any farmer or planter, who has any stock worth speaking of, to feed, be longer without such a convenience? If he consults his interest, he certainly will not. There is hardly a farmer in the country that could not set up one himself, and save at least one-third of its expense, so that the cost of it is hardly worthy of being entertained at all.

(From the New England Farmer.)

RURAL AFFAIRS.

Butter in Winter.—There is much general complaint in reference to the difficulty of churning in winter, and also to the quality of the butter. Moderate winter weather is unfavorable to butter making; the cream being so long in rising that the butter acquires a bitter taste. The method pursued in my family is, to warm the basin into which the milk is strained, and then immediately set it where it will freeze moderately hard as soon as possible. The act of congelation causes all the cream to rise; which is, in a tin basin, often near three fourths of an inch thick. With one of Spain's churns, (sold by H. Huxley & Co. New York,) butter is generally obtained in ten to twenty five minutes. By feeding the cows partly on turnips, the butter is as yellow, and possesses a flavor noways inferior to that made in summer.

Feb. 1836. S. F.

Watering Live Stock before Foddering.—I would wish to inquire, Mr Editor, through the New England Farmer, if watering horses and cattle, before giving them fodder is more conducive to health than afterwards. While, and immediately after, eating, many people feel a disposition to drink more than what is really conducive to health. It is well known, that if we refrain from drinking for some ten or thirty minutes after eating, much of the sensation of thirst will pass away, — the fluids of the stomach supplying most of the needed moisture. This is more especially so if the mastication has been slow and complete. Cattle, immediately after swallowing their half masticated portion of dry fodder, must doubtless have a strong thirst, leading them to drink more than is necessary. If they are watered before eating they will drink no more than the general state of the system requires. It is the practice with many farmers to water in the evening before and in the morning after foddering. This brings two dry meals to succeed each other. This practice cannot be correct. It seems to me, therefore, that when stock are fed on dry fodder, and watered twice a day, convenience and reason unitedly demand that watering should be done the first thing in the morning, and at the time of foddering in the evening. And yet this is not the practice among mankind. We all drink during and immediately after eating. I wish the scientific, and those who have experience, would favor the public with information on this subject. S. F.

Feb. 1836.

Use of Tea and Coffee.—The above subject suggests a doubt concerning the propriety of using these drinks. If the nutriment of our food depends much on the saliva being well united with it, and on its being conveyed to the stomach in this condition, it would seem as though the frequent sipping of these drinks rendered the saliva of comparatively no use. How contrary to nature does it appear for a young lady to take into the stomach two or three cups of these liquids with only two or three ounces of bread! How rational to expect numerous pains and diseases as the consequence! When we think of the quantities of beer, cider, wine, spirituous liquors, tea and coffee, that are taken into the stomachs of civilized people, we should conclude that the tendency of civilization was to convert mankind into drinking animals. S. F.

Feb. 1836.

Cutting Clover Hay green,—On the 22d and 23d of June last, I began cutting clover. It was very green; and although it cured slow, owing to the coolness of the weather, I carted some of it into the barn the same day, and the rest the two succeeding days. It was thrown lightly on the mow and moderately salted. In about ten days it had become considerably heated, and some of it turned blackish. In this state it was removed to another mow, and suffered for a while to lie without pressing down. Other hay was afterwards mowed on it. Having occasion, within a few days, to remove this clover hay, I was surprised to find it in excellent order, having a bright color. Horses and cows eat it well. When removed from the first mow it was smoky and dusty. But now no signs of either. S. F.

Feb. 18, 1836.

Rice Flour.—Among the many uses of rice is that for washing hands. It is of a gritty nature, between fine sand and Indian meal; answering a most excellent purpose to cleanse and soften the skin. S. F.

CAUSES OF POVERTY
AMONG SOME FARMERS IN MAINE.

Mr Holmes:—I have thought that I might do good by mentioning a few of the causes of the poverty of the farmers in the state of Maine. And first, in a negative point of view. It is not because the crops are not as good or as much to the acre as other parts of the United States.—When Greenleaf prepared his statistics of Maine some years ago, the average of wheat crops were, in the County of Kennebec, eighteen bushels per acre, and it is believed there has since been an improvement in that, and a very great one too in this section. I think we may now state the average at more than twenty bushels. It is alike good for all the small grains. Grass is abundant in most seasons. We must, therefore, look for the positive causes somewhere else, and not in the unproductiveness of the soil. I will now mention a few things which I think have a bearing to a great extent on the farming community. And first, their mode of living. It costs a farmer in the state of Maine more to live than it does perhaps in any other state in the Union, and I am certain that it costs more to our farmers to raise up a family of four, than it used to sixty years ago, in Massachusetts, to raise up a family of fourteen.

Second. The raising of so much poor and ordinary neat stock and horses. At the present prices none but the best will pay for raising. Our farmers are under family temptations to raise bad stock, a calf comes, round and fat; at three weeks old he is a handsome creature. The boys plead to have him raised. Good family cows being heifer calves, the good housewife insists that they shall be kept and raised, with this argument, viz.: that they will make as good as their dams. Another cause of raising calves is, the wife says she cannot spare the milk to fatten it. Now you should resist all these: kill all your calves but the very best, and give them good keeping. It is impossible that a country where black cattle and horses are fed on dry food so long in the year can afford to raise poor cattle. Set down the first stormy day and calculate the cost accurately and satisfy yourself.

Third. Not ploughing land as often as it ought to be, is another reason. They must sow more; and they do not employ as much capital upon their farms as would be profitable. An English farmer would have a compost heap worth $4000, while many of our farmers carry on extensive farms, without using manure of every description enough to cost as many cents.

The crops of some Pennsylvania farmers, from one hundred acres, amount to from three to five thousand dollars per annum. Calculate if you please the profits of almost any tilled crops, and there will be a fair profit. Wheat, barley, oats, and peas, or even oats alone, are all profitable. By neglecting the above, we do not raise our own bread, when we ought to raise hundreds of barrels of flour for market; and it can be done with profit. Try your arithmetic again some leisure evening.

We withhold more than is meet. *Many do not take an Agricultural paper.* This I mention last, though not least. Knowledge is power.

A Voter and a Farmer.

Silk Culture.—We have received from an esteemed and highly respected correspondent, the following communication, which we recommend to such of our readers as have an opportunity to cultivate the Mulberry Tree:—

"As it seems to be admitted on all hands, that the raising of raw silk can be made very profitable in our vicinity, — we should think that gentlemen who have, or can afford to have, country seats in the neighborhood, would turn their attention to this business as a source of pleasure and profit. The usual course of farming pursued by city farmers, produces frequently more pleasure than profit; for

"He that would by farming thrive,
Must either hold the plough, or drive."

Indeed the labor required by the common modes of agriculture is very expensive, and the attention and care requisite in a successful application of it must be unremitting. A silk farm, however, may be conducted on a small space and with small expense; and those who would not, for want of strength or inclination, cope with the irksome labors of the dairy and the loom, would take pleasure in attending to the interesting details of such an establishment, connected with a country residence. To make a country retreat truly pleasant, we must associate with it some idea of utility. We must have some occupation there, as a resource against that *ennui* which too often cankers its pleasures.

The vicinity of our city, in every direction, presents numerous eligible situations for genteel retirement, connected with the pursuits suggested, and the facility of communication by steam-boats and rail-road, will render a large circle of the country around Boston, in fact, a part of the city. In thus turning our eyes to the country, we keep steadily in view the growth and prosperity of this city, of which we are justly proud."—*Centinel.*

PREVENTIVE AGAINST DRY ROT.

We have been favored by an intelligent ship master with the following communication relating to recent successful experiments in England in the means of preserving ship timber against premature decay, which cannot fail to be of practical interest

and value to many of our readers.—*New Bedford Mercury.*

Mr Lindsey;—If you think the following description of the method of preserving timber from rot, insects and worms, now universally adopted in England, is of importance to the public, you will confer a favor by giving it an insertion.

The writer of this is personally acquainted with the ingenious inventor — has attended the lectures in London on the subject, and is satisfied of the efficacy of his plan.

The material employed by the inventor is Corrosive Sublimate, long known as a great preservative of animal substances from decay. The timber to be prepared must be placed in a tank or vessel, from 40 to 80 feet long, 4 or 5 feet deep, and about the same width. A solution of the corrosive sublimate is then thrown upon it until covered; the proportion, according to the inventor, is 1 lb. of corrosive sublimate to 5 gallons of water — but individuals who have tried it, say 1 lb. to 10 gallons of water. Pine plank are saturated in 48 hours. An oak stick, 40 feet long and one foot square, requires three weeks — during which time it becomes effectually seasoned, and will not contract or shrink even on exposure to the highest temperature of a tropical climate. The corrosive sublimate has a strong affinity for the albumen or vegetable juices generally called sap, combines instantaneously with it, and forms a new chemical compound which is solid, insoluble, and will not attract moisture. The efficacy of this invention has been tested in the most extraordinary manner. Pieces of the timber prepared with a solution of the sublimate, and unprepared pieces, the latter well seasoned, were placed in the "*Rotten Pit*," at the King's Dock Yard, Woolwich, in 1828. In 1831, the writer of this was present when they were withdrawn. The prepared timber was perfectly sound — the unprepared, although of the best English oak, was a mass of rot and decayed vegetable matter.

The prepared sticks were left on the ground in the open air six months, and then again placed in the Rotten Pit with other pieces of well-seasoned timber. At the end of two years, the prepared timber was found quite sound — the seasoned very rotten.

The Rotten Pit at Woolwich Yard is a cave under ground, 80 feet long by 20 feet, and built by order of government, for the purpose of testing the efficacy of the various proposed nostrums for preserving timber. The pit is lined, top, bottom and sides, with vegetable matter in the worst possible stage of corruption — very damp and full of carbonic acid gas — it is a perfect hot-bed — a candle will not burn in it a minute, so foul is the air of this subterranean chamber. In fact, no timber, although thoroughly salted, docked, or seasoned, will resist three months the powerful decomposing qualities of the Rotten Pit. The specimens were placed on the bottom of the pit, and half buried in the putrid vegetable matter with which the cave is kept supplied. This experiment seemed so conclusive, that Government immediately paid the inventor £10,000, and advised him to take out a patent. He was ordered to construct tanks at all the Dock Yards, and the government timber was immediately prepared in the above manner. Previous to this, individuals had fitted tanks, and two whalemen were built entirely of timber and plank prepared with the solution. House builders are also using it very generally in London. The sleepers, or foundations for railways — staves for oil casks, canvass, rope, and all vegetable matter may be preserved by its use. It is found that a cubic foot of oak, will absorb three pints of the liquid, which will cost at the present price of quicksilver, 7 1-2 cents per cubic foot. A mere trifle compared with the immense advantage of having a material not liable to be destroyed by rot, worms, or insects of any kind. The objection urged against this material is, its poisonous nature. But it has been proved by careful experiment, that corrosive sublimate, when it combines with the sap of wood, forms a compound perfectly insoluble, and quite innocent — in fact a complete chemical change takes place in the poisonous nature of the mixture by this combination.

The writer has seen experiments tried upon canvass and rope, which was immersed in the solution, and placed four months in a dunghill — the unprepared pieces were destroyed — while the texture of the prepared specimens was not weakened in the slightest degree — any one can try this by using the above proportions.

Satisfactory accounts have been received by Messrs B. Rotch and M. Enderby, of London, from the captains of the whale ships constructed at their instance, of timber prepared as above — testifying that the crew were remarkably healthy, although they slept actually in contact with the ceiling plank thus prepared, through all climates and changes of temperature.

It is well known to practical men that salt is not an effectual preservative — as many ships salted on the stocks have been found rotten the first voyage — one instance, the Enterprise of Nantucket. The Golconda, of New Bedford, has had a new windlass three voyages in succession, and the lower masts of ships very quickly decay. These parts of a ship it is impossible to salt. In the British navy the use of salt has been discontinued, as it is found to corrode the iron rapidly, and it also keeps a ship in a very damp state.

Remedy for the Croup.—The Medical and Surgical Journal of March last, contains a communication from Dr J. D. Fisher, of this city,

describing a new and successful mode of treating that alarming disease of childhood, the croup, which ought to be generally known. The prescription is simple, and easily applied, and it must be evident that if it should not afford effectual relief to the sufferer, it will not increase the disorder. In the absence of a regular physician, this application may in some cases prove of immense benefit. The following is the statement by Dr Fisher:—

"I was called, at five o'clock last evening, to a child which was laboring under a severe attack of the croup, consequent upon a sudden disappearance of the eruption of measles. The croupy symptoms appeared suddenly, and had existed one hour before I was called. The child, on my arrival, was in extreme agony, struggling and gasping for breath; and I thought the little sufferer was in danger of immediate suffocation. The first means I employed was the application of very hot, almost boiling, water to the throat and upper part of the chest, by means of large sponges.—These applications I repeated every two minutes, and immediately the skin became coated and very red, and in the course of a quarter of an hour the little girl breathed much easier, and her croupy cough and respiration became less shrill and tubular, and much modified. Soon after making the first applications of the sponges to the throat, I wrapped the child in a woollen blanket wrung out in hot water, as a substitute for a warm bath, and gave it twenty drops of the wine of antimony, in a little sweetened water, which she swallowed with difficulty. I persevered in the applcations of the hot moist sponges for an hour, when the child was so much relieved that I ventured to leave it for half an hour — ordering the remedy to be continued. On my return, I found the patient breathed with comparative freedom, its respiration and cough less sonorous and shrill, and its pulse softer and more natural. I recommended the applications to be continued until the child should be decidedly relieved, and prescribed six drops of antimonial wine to be given every hour in a little water. The mother of the child informed me, this morning, that she continued to apply the hot water remedy for five hours, but not so often as I applied them — that the child continued to improve, and fell asleep soon after I left it. This morning she is bright and playful, and asks for food. The respiration is quite easy — pulse soft and natural; cough humid and loose; its sounds having lost the shrill croupy character.

I was induced to employ the above remedy, in consequence of having lately read in a foreign journal that it had been suggested and employed by a German physician with decided and uniform success. As the remedy is simple, and is at ready command, and as its application in the present case was attended with such decided and immediate happy effects, I would, with a good deal of confidence, advise mothers and nurses in similar cases to apply it early and perseveringly until medical aid can be obtained. The sponges should be gently squeezed before they are applied, so that the water shall not ooze from them, and should be gradually compressed during the time they are applied, so as to continue the temperature up to the highest degree that can be sustained by the patient. Should sponges not be at hand, napkins wrung out in the boiling water may serve as good substitutes."

Remedy for the Lock Jaw.—We are informed by a friend that a sure preventive against this terrible disease is to take some soft soap, and mix it with a sufficient quantity of pulverized chalk, so as to make it of the consistency of buckwheat batter; keep the chalk moistened with a fresh supply of soap until the wound begins to discharge, and the patient finds relief. Our friend stated to us that implicit confidence may be placed in what he says, that he has known several cases where this remedy has been successfully applied. So simple and so valuable a remedy, within the reach of every person, ought to be universally known.—*N. Y. Ev. Post.*

British Manufactories.—A good deal was published some 3 or 4 years ago, touching the wretched condition of the laborers in these great establishments of industry. A commission was instituted by Parliament to inquire into their condition on the spot. The investigation appears to have been conducted with care and fidelity. The result of the inquiry was that the condition of the operations, of all ages, especially in the large establishments, was far from being miserable. Their labor is higher than that of the cultivators of the soil. Adults earn per day from 3s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. sterling, and some more. Their employment is not unfavorable to health or longevity.

Another fact of great importance is announced, —"that improvements in machinery invariably increase, at one and the same time the profits of the mill owner and the wages of the workmen." With this improved machinery, the manufacturer can afford to pay his workmen a higher price.

[From the Maine Farmer.]

SCOTCH OATS.

Mr Holmes: — It is a well known fact to you that the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, of which you were corresponding Secretary, and of course did the business, imported via New York from Scotland, a number of bushels of Oats, in hopes that seed brought from that mountainous country to this might be useful. The seed was

sold at auction, and I purchased two pecks at one dollar the peck. As they arrived late I was obliged to sow them late in the season. I put them upon good land, and they grew large in the straw, but before they ripened were nearly all lodged down. On threshing them out I found that I had eleven bushels, notwithstanding, compared with those sown they were very much shrunk and shriveled. Last spring I sowed five bushels on two acres and fifteen rods of land, in three several pieces, to try what they would do. The land was in various states of richness, some of it in good order, and some of it poorer, some on a spear grass sod ploughed eight inches deep -- with little or no dressing of any kind, the land having been mowed as long as it would give any burthen worth mowing. I raised between seventy and eighty bushels. From my experiments I think I may safely make the following statements — viz: That they produce larger and more straw per acre than the common oats. That they produce as many or more oats. That they are this year about five pounds in the bushel heavier though not entirely full, as part of my crop lodged and all were cut too green. That they ought not to be sowed late. That they will produce more of oats and straw on land that is in rather poor condition.

That a decaying or rotten sward of any kind is sufficiently rich to ensure a good crop. That they will probably bring in the market 12½ cents per bushel more than the common oats of this country, and that it will prove a change of seeds that will be of much benefit to the farmer for a number of years to come.

I have fifty bushels which I wi l sell at a fair price compared with the price of other oats if applied for at my house soon. The oats imported weighed 44 pounds to the bushel.

ELIJAH WOOD.

Winthrop, Feb. 27, 1836.

THE UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS

Caution against Poisons.—Housekeepers should be cautious about using glazed earthen vessels for holding confections, either preserved in acids, or liable to undergo acetous fermentation. The lead used in the process of glazing is deadly poison. It is disengaged by the action of the acids, and diffuses itself through the entire contents of the vessel from which it is corroded. Many persons, not aware of this fact, preserve pickles and sweetmeats in glazed earthen jars, and from the deleterious change which the confections undergo, in consequence, lose their health, if not their lives, without ever suspecting the cause.

Tomato.—It is said that the juice of the tomato vine contains a most superb innate green coloring, which is said to have been used as a dye, and may be made of all the various shades of green, from the dark to light pale green, and when mixed with other colors, this green coloring is thought to have a stronger basis than any other vegetable.

Cotton for Tooth-ache.—Among the best remedies for tooth-ache, and swollen face, is cotton; put as much into the mouth as can conveniently be kept in, and in a few hours the pain and inflammation will be gone. If the swollen part of the face is covered with cotton, the swelling will soon disappear.

Vinegar in Cream.—Sir: The difficulty and labor frequently attending the churning of butter, led me to try a variety of experiments to ascertain if a method could be discovered for making butter come quicker than the usual mode. After trying several things, I found that by adding a table spoonfull of good vinegar to four gallons of cream, when put into the churn, I obtained butter in from seven to eight minutes. If this information will be of any service to your subscribers, you are at liberty to publish it.—*Far. and Mec.*

Potato Balls.—A lady of our acquaintance recommends the following preparation: Mix mashed potatoes with the yolk of an egg — roll them into balls — flour them, or egg and bread crum them, and fry them in clear drippings, or lard, or brown them in a Dutch oven.

To preserve Books.—A few drops of any perfumed oil will secure libraries from the consuming effects of mould and damp. Russian leather which is perfumed with the tar of the birch tree, never moulders; and merchants suffer large bales of this leather to remain in the London docks, knowing that it cannot sustain any injury from damp This manner of preserving books with perfumed oil was known to the ancients. The Romans used oil of cedar to preserve valuable MSS. Hence the expression used by Horace, "*Digna cedro*," meaning any work worthy of being anointed with cedar oil, or, in other words, worthy of being preserved and remembered.—*Green. Gaz.*

CHINESE MULBERRY.—A remarkable instance of this plant's tenacity of life was mentioned to us the other day by Dr Stebbins, of this town.—Dr S. last autumn sent several boxes of the cuttings of this plant to Illinois. One of them was 69 days on its passage, and when received the earth in which the cuttings had been deposited was as dry as powder, yet the buds had started and were shooting forth as luxuriantly as if enjoying the choicest advantages of sun, sky, and soil. No doubt the cuttings of the multicaulis can be sent the world over without killing them.—*Hamp. Gaz.*